

Record Group 28
The Wilcox Foundation Annual Essay Contest
2001-2008
2 manuscript boxes

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI
Finding Aid Written by Marilyn Erps 28 July 2005
Updated by Jennifer Meekhof, 28 Sept 2011

Creator: The Wilcox Foundation
Acquisition: The Wilcox Foundation Annual Essay Contest Collection records were deposited in the archives at various dates from 2001 through 2008.
Language: Materials in English
Access: Records are open for research
Use: Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines
Notes: Citation Style: "Wilcox Foundation Annual Essay Contest Collection," Record Group 28, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

Abstract

The Wilcox Foundation hosted, for several years, an Annual Essay Contest, which encouraged Plymouth and Canton high school senior students to write essays in the hopes of earning scholarships. The foundation provided suggestions for a theme of the essay, related to local Plymouth History, which would later be judged based on various criteria.

Scope and Content

The Wilcox Foundation Annual Essay Contest Collection consists of the instructions, essays and further information regarding the annual essay contests.

Entries

[Entry 1](#): 2001
[Entry 2](#): 2002
[Entry 3](#): 2003
[Entry 4](#): 2004
[Entry 5](#): 2005
[Entry 6](#): 2006
[Entry 7](#): 2007
[Entry 8](#): 2008

Important Subjects

College Scholarship Essays
Local History—Plymouth, MI
Scholarship Essay contests
Wilcox Foundation
Writing contests—Plymouth, MI

Entry 1: 2001

Box 1, Shelf 2

Folder 1

Instructions, Directory of Essays and Information on Individual Authors

Folder 2: Essays 1 - 7

The History of the Markham Family/Business

The History of Plymouth and Old Village: A Town Built Around People and Transportation

A Civil War Soldier Returns Home To “Old Village”

Quality Schools

A Ride Through the History of Trains in Plymouth

“No Title” (Political – on Penniman and other early leaders)

The Railroads of Old Village, Plymouth’s Tracks to Progress

Folder 3: Essays 8-16

Everyone’s Got a Story

Clara Gayde Alexander and Her Gayde Family History

Lower Town: The Treasures of Plymouth

Plymouth, On the Right Track

Plymouth: A Colorful Pallet of Culture

The Wonderful History of Our Plymouth

Home, Sweet Home – Plymouth, Michigan

Liberty Street, Old Village

Needlepoint for the Novice

Folder 4: Essays 17 – 23

“No Title” (Railroads in Plymouth)

The People of 1142 Holbrook

“No Title” (Railroads)

The History of Plymouth’s “Old Village” Area

The Railroad and the Village

The Role of the Railroad in Old Village Plymouth

“No Title” (Early Plymouth)

Entry 2 - 2002

Box 1, Shelf 2

Folder 1: Essays 1 – 10

Lights, Film and Fire

The Plymouth Hospital

Mayflower Memories

“The community watering hole”

The Mayflower Sails Into the Heart of Plymouth

Plymouth, Michigan: Air Rifle Capital of the World

From Old to New – The Penn Theater

“Real Estate History”

Horton Plumbing: History in the Making
Plymouth Air Rifle Company

Folder 2: Essays 11 – 20

The History of Saxton's Garden Center
Keeping Plymouth Smiling for Almost Fifty Years
District of Downtown Plymouth: Main Street Facing Kellogg Park
"Plymouth's Daisy Air . . . A Family Affair"
The Inn on the Hill
The Daisy Air Rifle Company: History in the Making
Schrader's Funeral Home
Plymouth Iron Windmill Company/Daisy Air Rifle Company
The Frameworks then and Now
Alter Car Motor Company

Folder 3: Essays 21 – 25

Kemnitz Candies – A Delicious Part of History
M. Conner and Son Hardware
A Sweet Downtown Treat
Daisies Aren't Just Flowers
The Penniman Allen Theater

Entry 3: 2003

Box 1, Shelf 2

Folder 1: Essays 1 – 10

Plymouth in the Great Depression
Plymouth: The Birth of an American Hometown
Fruit Trees, May Flowers and daisies
Plymouth. . . Making Yesterday Come Alive
Leading Ladies of Plymouth
From Joppa to Plymouth: A Historical Perspective of Plymouth, Michigan
The Evolution of Plymouth: An Historical Perspective on the Roles of Women and the Church
"When I Was Your Age . . . The Stories of Plymouth's Past
How PCEP Came to Be
"No Title" (Daisy plus others)

Folder 2: Essays 11 – 20

Union street, a Walk Down Memory Lane
Chicken. . . Beginnings of Greatness
Plymouth – A Window to the Past
Stabilizing our Roots
Generation of Alterations
Industry and Community
"No Title" (Interview with Annabell Brown)
Plymouth As It Used To Be: Fully Contained

Plythean Pride

“for without a past there is no future” Margaret Dunning

Folder 3: Essays 21 – 30

Union Street: A Stroll Through Time

A Fire in an Old Man’s Heart

History of Plymouth’s Industry

“No Title” (Plymouth)

Mayor Ruth Whipple – One of the First Woman Leaders of Plymouth, Michigan

Life on a Shoestring

The Wilcox Essay: A Hotel to Remember

The Heart of Plymouth

Plymouth – a Place to Call Home

Changes in Plymouth and the Development of Education

Entry 4: 2004

Box 2, Shelf 2

Folder 1: Score Sheet

Folder 2: Essays 1 – 8

The Business of War in Plymouth

Plymouth Gives During World War II

How World War II Impacted the Women of Plymouth

Plymouth Rocked by War

Sacrifices for Freedom

“No Title” (Interview with Doris Cole Avis, Elsie Trinka, and Bruce and Doris Richard)

The Effect of World War II on the Females of Plymouth

A Divided World Brings a Town Together

Entry 5: 2005

Box 2, Shelf 2

Folder 1: Instructions, Lists of Essays

Folder 2: Essays 1 – 8

The Many Modes of Transportation in Plymouth

Following the Tracks of Technology

“No Title” (Phoenix Plant)

Transportation: Driving the Economy

The Amazing Automobile Arrives in our Area

Plymouth Residents Recall Transportation Triumphs and Trials

Plymouth Transportation” The Interurban

The Inter-Urban Trolley

Folder 3: Essays 9 – 17

Plymouth's Transportation from 1899 – 1928: The Interurban Railway
The Establishment of the Mettetal Airport
The Alter Automobile
The Alter-Mobile
Moving through Plymouth
A city Driven by the Roads
“No Title”
Transportation's Role in the evolution of Plymouth
A Ride Through the History of Trains in Plymouth

Entry 6 2006

Box 2, Shelf 2

Contest Theme: *“Dedicated to the belief in education – desiring to encourage learning about the History of Plymouth”. Many participants did not name their submissions. Titles were added to facilitate topic searches.*

Folder 1:

Essays 1 – 8

“Our Lady of Good Counsel Church”
“Theaters in Plymouth”
“Charles Draper -- Jewelers to Photographer”
“The Methodist Episcopal Church”
“History of Plymouth Community”
“The Mayflower Hotel and the Penniman-Allen Theatre”
“Charles G. Draper”
“Rising from Is Ashes: The Phoenix Mill”

Folder 2:

Essays 9 – 17

“1907 Wreck Leaves Memoirs Embedded in Tracks”
“Even Things That Remain the Same Change Somehow” The First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth
“History Hits Home: Plymouth High School”
“The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth”
“My Debt to Daisy”
“101 Union Street: Roots of the Daisy”
“If They Were Here Today –The Story of Plymouth's Earliest Firefighters”
“An Historic Connection: Village Industries and Plymouth”
“Tiny BB Makes a Big Bang”

Folder 3

Essays 18 - 26

“The Pere Marquette Disaster”
“Crash Dance” The 1907 Train Wreck
“Unknown Tragedies”
“A History to Live In”

“Beyond the Brick and Stone Lies an Astonishing History” The First Presbyterian Church
“The Plymouth High School Fire of 1916”
“The Old Plymouth High School vs. The New Plymouth High School.”
“The Making of Downtown Plymouth”
“The History of Plymouth High School”

Folder 4

Essays 27 –

“Salem Homes the Worst Train Wreck in MI History”
“Henry Ford and his Plymouth Vision”
“Old Plymouth High School”
“Early Rail Roads in Plymouth”
“The Great Salem Train Wreck of 1907”
“What a Wreck”
“Engaging in Endless Discovery”
“The Past, The Present & The Future” Charles G. Draper
“Mills in Plymouth”
“Here Today and Away Tomorrow” Pere Marquette Railroad

Entry 7 2007

Box 2, Shelf 2

Contest Theme: *“Dedicated to the belief in education – desiring to encourage learning about the History of Plymouth”. Many participants did not name their submissions. Titles were added to facilitate topic searches.*

NO INFO SUBMITTED TO PHM

Entry 8 2008

Box 2, Shelf 2

Contest Theme: *“Dedicated to the belief in education – desiring to encourage learning about the History of Plymouth”. Many participants did not name their submissions. Titles were added to facilitate topic searches. The topic should focus on the changes both good and bad that took place in Plymouth after World War II and to the end of the Korean Conflict.*

“Growth in Post WW II Plymouth Winner ONLY ENTRY SUBMITTED TO PHM

Box 2, Shelf 21

Wilcox Student Journal – May 2008 – Various Authors